

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02666 130114Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /021 W

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R 121710Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 4002

DEA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 2666

USIA FOR ILA AND IMV/PS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM

DEA FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CARACAS FOR DEA

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR CO

SUBJ: NBC/TV NEW DOCUMENTARY ON COCAINE

REF: A. CARACAS 2493 NOTAL; B. BOGOTA USIAC 2550; C. CARACAS 2853

1. THERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN CONFUSION AND CROSSING OF CABLES AMONG CARACAS, BOGOTA AND USIA WASHINGTON. FOR INFORMATION OF ALL CCNCERNED, AMBASSADOR HAS DESIGNATED NARCOTICS COORDINATOR LEONARD SHURTLEFF AS CENTRAL COORDINATING POINT FOR HANDLING QUESTION OF NBC/TV NEWS DOCUMENTARY. HE WILL UTILIZE AND COORDINATE ALL OTHER COUNTRY TEAM ELEMENTS AS NECESSARY. ALL TRAFFIC ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD THEREFORE BE TO EMBASSY FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND NOT THROUGH USIAC OR DEA CHANNELS.

2. WE ARE IN PROCESS NOW OF OBTAINING GOC CONCURRENCE. NOT ALL NECESSARY BASES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED, AND HENCE WE DO NOT TECHNICALLY HAVE COUNTRY CLEARANCE AS YET.

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 02666 130114Z

3. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST IN THIS PROJECT IF GOC CONCURRENCE OBTAINED. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE AMBASSADOR DOES SET THE FOLLOWING CAVEATS: A) THE FILMING SHOULD NOT FEATURE DEA ACTIVITY IN COUNTRY; THIS IS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GOC SENSITIVITY ABOUT PUBLICIZING EXTERNAL OFFICIAL ACTIVITY WITHIN COLOMBIA; AND B) AS NOTED REFTEL B, IF THERE IS FILMING OF INTERVIEW OF US PRISONERS OR THE ARREST OF US CITIZENS THERE WOULD CLEARLY BE COMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE US PRIVACY ACT. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE THEREFORE TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING THESE SCENARIOS. WE ARE HAPPY TO NOTE FROM REFTEL C THAT FILMING OF US PRISONERS IS NOT CONTEMPLATED BY NBC.

4. AS TO OTHER POINTS NOTED IN REFTEL A, EXTENT TO WHICH FILMING OF SEARCHES AND SEIZURES, PATROLS AND MILITARY TRIBUNALS CAN BE FILMED WILL DEPEND UPON GOC CONCURRENCE.

5. WITH REGARD TO PARA 3 REFTEL C, THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND OUTSIDE DEA AGENT WITH THE CHIEF OF THE CAMERA CREW. WE WILL COORDINATE HERE.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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